

Resolved, That a select committee to consist of nine members, of which committee the President of the Convention shall be chairman, be appointed by the chair, whose duty it shall be to confer with the President of the United States, our Senators and Representatives in Congress, and the appropriate committees of Congress, to ascertain and report to this Convention what appropriation if any, will be made by Congress, in pursuance of the recommendations contained 'in the messages of the President of the United States, of December, 1862, and December, 1863, and the joint Resolutions of Congress No. 26, approved April 10th, 1862, to aid the State of Maryland in the adoption of a system of Emancipation, and "to be used by said State in its discretion to compensate for the inconveniences, public and private, produced by such change of system."

Which was read the first time.

COURT OF APPEALS.

Mr. GOLDSBOROUGH (Mr. Purnell in the chair) submitted the following order, which was adopted:

Ordered, That the Committee on the Judiciary be instructed to inquire into the expediency of reporting for the action of this Convention an elective system for the Judges of the Court of Appeals, based on the following suggestions:

1st. That the said court consist of five Judges, two of whom shall be chosen from the Eastern Shore, and three from the Western Shore counties of the State.

2d. That one of said Judges be selected from the Eastern Shore, and one from the Western Shore counties of the State, who shall be elected by a majority of the legal votes cast in the whole State.

3d. That the other three Judges of said court be chosen, one from each of the present Gubernatorial Districts of the State, who shall be elected by the legal voters of said respective districts, from other counties in said district than those from which the two Judges elected by the people of the whole State may have been selected.

4th. That each of said Judges be elected for the period of twenty years—be required to reside, at least eight months of the year, at the seat of Government; be not less than thirty years of age at the time of his election, and disqualified after he shall have attained the age of seventy years.

5th. That the salary of each of said Judges shall not be less than the sum of three thousand five hundred dollars.

6th. In the event of their death, disqualification or removal from office, or from the State, the remainder of their term so vacated shall be filled by an appointment by a joint vote of the General Assembly of Maryland, if in session, and in case of their failure so to do, or their not being in session, the appointment shall then devolve upon the Ex-

ecutive, who shall fill the same for the unexpired period of their election, subject to a ratification by the Senate.

CIRCUIT COURTS.

Mr. GOLDSBOROUGH (Mr. Purnell in the chair) submitted the following order, which was adopted:

Ordered, That the Committee on the Judiciary be instructed to inquire into the expediency of creating certain Judicial Districts within which Circuit Courts and Courts of Equity, Probate and Administration shall be held, the respective systems to be defined by the following principles:

1st. That the Circuit Court shall embrace the same civil and criminal business over which the present Circuit Courts have jurisdiction.

2d. That the Courts of Equity, Probate and Administration shall include within the sphere of their duties, all the equity business now transacted in the Circuit Courts, connected with the sale, division or other disposition of real estate, injunctions, petitions and commissions. The Judges of each of said Courts shall also act in all such matters as are now within the province of the Orphans' Courts of the State where parties litigant may desire a determination and decision by him as sole presiding Judge, in all which cases the Register shall keep a docket, and the decision of said Judge shall be made in writing, and filed among the records of said Court, from which an appeal may be taken within sixty days to the Court of Appeals.

3d. That there shall be one Judge of the Circuit Court, and one Judge of the Court of Equity, Probate and Administration, elected in each Judicial District as hereinafter designated; and that each of said Judges shall be men of integrity, learned in the law, and not less than thirty years of age at the time of their election.

4th. That each of said Judicial Districts shall be composed of three counties, except the fourth, fifth and sixth districts, which shall be composed of two counties, and there shall be two Judges for each of said Judicial Districts, to be selected from different counties in said district; the one to be styled the Circuit Judge, the other the Judge of Equity, Probate and Administration, the latter of whom shall also be the sole Judge in all contested matters of Probate and Administration and other business now usually transacted by the Orphans' Court of this State, whenever desired by any of the parties litigant, or parties interested in any issue or issues then pending before said Court. In cases of any temporary disqualification by sickness or otherwise, each of said Judges shall perform the duties of the other so disqualified.

5th. That with the said Presiding Judge of Equity, Probate and Administration, there shall be associated two men of sound judgment and integrity, not less than thirty years